



U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/437,296  
Response to Office Action dated July 17, 2006

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A fluid coupling comprising:

first and second coupling members having respective gasket holding annular ridges on butting end faces thereof; and

an annular gasket interposed between the first and second coupling members,

wherein at least one of the first and second coupling members has a fluid channel comprising an opening passageway orthogonal to the butting end face thereof, and a slanting main passageway communicating therewith, the opening passageway having a diameter equal to the inside diameter of the gasket holding annular ridge,

wherein the gasket holding annular ridges are rounded so as to be in contact with flat, non-inclined faces of the gasket only at its radial midportion so as to relieve the inner peripheral portion of the gasket from stress concentration and wrinkles and,

wherein the gasket has an inside diameter less than the diameter of the opening passageway when the gasket is in a tightened-up state.